ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF PRETORIA

CATHEDRAL OF ST ALBAN THE MARTYR

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THANKSGIVING SERVICE

29 NOVEMBER 2026

09h30 SERVICE	
Celebrant	Revd Elias Lekoro
Preacher	The Very Revd Canon Moses Thabethe
Synaxist	Mr Tim Moloi
Prayers	Mr Mandla Mnyatheli

MISSION STATEMENT

We shall be a spiritual home in which the Love of God, His Compassion and His Living Word comforts and enlivens all God's people through various ministries.

DIOCESAN THEME

The holy people of God, a Covenant people.

Dean: The Very Revd Canon Moses Thabethe (0609941331)
Assistant Priest: Revd Shane Fraser (0674095848)
Retired Priest: Revd Elias Lekoro (0717506067)
Parish Office: 012 322 7670
Churchwardens: Clement Sibiya (0824909191) & Kutelani Mulaudzi (0828400881)
Alternate Churchwarden: Pontsho Moraba (0826460930)

WELCOME

We welcome everyone to our worship service, especially those joining us for the first time. May you be refreshed and renewed through this act of worship today. Should you wish to join our parish, feel free to contact one of the Churchwardens.

ORDER OF SERVICE

COLLECT PRAYER

Almighty Father, your Son came to us in humility as our saviour and at the last day he will come again in glory as our judge: give us grace to turn away from darkness to the light of Christ that we will be ready to welcome him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Heavenly Father, you are the source of all blessings. With hearts full of gratitude, we present our offerings and tithes, offered electronically and physically. Help us to be generous givers, dear Lord, of our money, our gifts, and our lives; that through them, we may extend your kingdom in this church and the wider world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WELLNESS

O Lord of light and endless compassion, we are always in need of your mercy and grace. Amid sickness and infirmity, heal the sick, bind up the broken-hearted, and forgive sin. Give us comfort in our anxiety and fear, courage and strength in our suffering, patience and compassion in our caring, and consolation in our grieving. Strengthen our faith and hope, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Processional Hymns	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	AMNS 207
Advent Antiphony	Christ is coming, prepare the way	Choir
Introit Hymn	Come, thou long-expected Jesus	AMNS 31
Kyrie	seTswana	Insert
First Reading	Isaiah 64: 1-9	Nontobeko Sibiya
Psalm	80: 1-7, 17-19	APB page 705
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9	Mantie Motlohi-Moloi
Hymn For The Gradual	Mong wa dinaledi	seTswana 35
Gospel	Mark 13: 24-37	
Sunday School & Teens Hymn	Building up the temple	Insert
Sermon		The Very Revd Canon Moses Thabethe
Nicene Creed	English	APB page 108
Prayers		Mr Mandla Mnyatheli
Song For Peace	Jesu langa lomphefumlo	Insert
Offertory Hymns	My God, how wonderful thou art All my hope on God is founded	AMNS 102 AMNS 336
Sanctus	isiZulu	Insert
Acclamations	English	Sung
The Lord's Prayer	English	Insert
Agnus Dei	isiXhosa	Insert
Communion Hymn	Jesus the very thought of thee Love divine, all loves excelling	Choir AMNS 131
Post Communion Hymn	Meekness and majesty	SOF 390
Recessional Hymn	Lord of all power, I give you my will	AMNS 395

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

FIRST CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF HOPE (PURPLE CANDLE)
THE PATRIACHS, ABRAHAM, THE OLD TESTAMENT ANCESTORS OF JESUS

Leader: May your hearts be filled with hope as you hear the promises God made to bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham, the father of our faith.

All: **Thanks be to God**

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, we will light a candle to remember the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the ancestors of our faith.

Genesis Chapter 12

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors: to you be praise and glory for ever. You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever.

(A person lights the first candle)

Leader: Let us pray:

All: **Lord Jesus we give thanks for our Father Abraham**
Who by faith obeyed your call
And became the father of many nations.
Give us faith to listen to your voice that our hearts
May be filled with the hope of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, 29 November 2026 – Thanksgiving Service
- Sunday, 06 December 2026 – Diocesan Family Day
- Wednesday, 16 December 2026 – One Faith Gospel Concert
- Saturday, 16 January 2027 – Youth Synod Opening Service at St Mary, Pretoria North
- Thursday, 04 February 2027 – Diocesan Synod Opening Service at the Cathedral

SICK AND HOUSE-BOUND

John Mojapelo, Revd Martha Lebethe, Malesela Kale, Nobulali Nhantsi, Priscilla Motsogi, Tony Amurjeeth, Nomazizi Sokudela, those who are afflicted by serious illness, and all who live with chronic or incurable disease.

HOME VISITS

Parishioners who wish to receive a visit from the clergy, whether for pastoral reasons or for sick communion, are encouraged to contact the office.

SUNDAY TEA & COFFEE ROSTER

CONTACT

Primary Office Email:
info@stalbanscathedral.org.za /
bookkeeper@stalbanscathedral.org.za
Dean's Office E-mail:
dean@stalbanscathedral.org.za
Curate's Office E-mail:
assistpriest@stalbanscathedral.org.za
Verger's Office E-mail:
verger@stalbanscathedral.org.za

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

We wish all parishioners who will be celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this coming week the very best. May God continue to shower you with blessings and joy. May He always keep you in His tender and loving care.

BANKING DETAILS

Name of account: St Alban's Cathedral
Account no.: 010 626 816
Bank Name: Standard Bank
Branch code: 051001
Reference: Initials + Surname +
Purpose for transfer (J Doe Collection *OR* J Doe Pledge)

Snap here to pay
SnapScan

https://pos.snapscan.io/qr/PXW231075

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH FLOWERS: The flowers were donated by the late Mrs Florence Maimane's children in remembrance of her birthday on 28 November.

2027 LECTIONARIES: Lectionaries for 2027 are now available. They may be purchased from the office for R 50.00 or from the Churchwardens after the Sunday services.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, 29 November 2026. Guilds and individuals who wish to transfer funds electronically towards the service are requested to use the reference "***Thanksgiving Service***".

SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR-END PARTY: The Sunday School year-end party will take place on Sunday, 29 November 2026, during the 09h30 service, coinciding with the Thanksgiving Service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE: The Sunday School is raising funds to help ease the financial burden on parents towards the cost of the children's T-shirts. To support this initiative, they will be selling refreshments on Sundays. They kindly invite congregants to support them by purchasing refreshments and encouraging others to do the same. Every contribution, no matter how small, will make a difference and help us reach our goal. Donations are also welcome.

A.W.F GBV CAMPAIGN: Fellow parishioners, for 365 Days, let us actively campaign and prevent all forms of violence against women and children under the theme ***UNITE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls.***

WEEKLY PAYMENTS: Following a meeting of the Parish Council, guilds and ministries are urged to consider planning their withdrawals from their savings accounts rather than requesting a withdrawal on Monday for Friday (for example). This request follows an in-depth review of the additional charges associated with the office's weekly payments. To mitigate these additional charges, attempts will be made to load and release payments only twice a month, i.e., mid-month and month-end. Exceptions from this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

CALLING ALL SINGERS: The St Alban's Cathedral Choir is calling… and it might just be calling *you*! Whether you're a seasoned chorister or someone who sings happily in the car or shower, young or young-at-heart, we'd love for you to join us. Singing is better when we come together as a community. Be part of something beautiful (and joyful) — your voice will truly make a difference. Curious? Our Chairperson, **Chaile Makaleng (082 374 1364),** will be delighted to give you the lowdown on becoming a choir member.

PARKING FEE: A few months ago, the Council conducted a survey relating to parking fees. Based on survey responses, respondents expressed willingness to contribute to the cost of parking on Sundays; the preferred parking fee is between R 100.00 and R150.00. The preferred payment frequency is on Sundays in church and monthly. The preferred payment methods are a handheld machine in the church and an electronic transfer to the Cathedral account. The reference should be ***Parking***, followed by the name of the Parishioner.

SERVING TEA AND COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES: The Parish Council would like to express sincere gratitude to the Guilds, Ministries, and Individuals for their faithful commitment to serving tea and coffee after the 07h30 and 09h30 services. The congregation truly values your generosity. May we continue to grow together in this spirit of fellowship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There is a need for vigilance in safety and security on the church premises. Parents are kindly asked to sit with their children after the communion/blessing as teachers return to their pews in the church, and to remain with them when the children are playing outside, as there is no adult supervision. Thank you for your continued support.

RECYCLING: The parish has a recycling project for plastic, glass and ordinary bottles. Parishioners are welcome to bring their recycling bottles from home. Let us contribute towards a cleaner environment.

PARISH ROLL: We encourage parishioners who wish to update their details on the Parish Roll to do so by either using the link https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/zJgFGPtiEy to access the membership form, or by visiting the website https://www.stalbanscathedral.org.za/ and clicking on the "*membership form*" button at the bottom of the page, or by contacting the office via e-mail at bookkeeper@stalbanscathedral.org.za. For those who would like assistance with updating their details on the parish roll, the Technical Team members are available to help after the service. They will be available with laptops to assist with parish roll registrations and updates. In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), the Cathedral Office, the clergy, Churchwardens, and Parish Councillors are duty-bound to take adequate precautions in collecting, processing and storing personal information, solely for pastoral connection with parishioners.

COMMUNICATION: Parishioners who do not receive communication from the Cathedral office are requested to submit their communication details to the office via e-mail.

COLLECTION AND PLEDGES: Kindly use the banking details provided below for contributions to the collection and pledges.

> *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV).

CATHEDRAL RENOVATION & RESTORATION APPEAL

"*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain*." – Psalm 127:1

The St. Alban's Cathedral has embarked on a R2.99 million renovation project to restore and preserve our sacred and historic place of worship. The renovation includes urgent roof repairs, improved lighting, walkway and driveway upgrades, waterproofing, crack sealing, bathroom refurbishments, and restoration of heritage features. This effort reflects our commitment to maintaining the Cathedral as a safe, dignified, and welcoming space for all generations to come.

How We're Raising Funds

The Fundraising Committee is actively rolling out a variety of activities, and your support is needed. Planned fundraising efforts include:

- Music Concerts at the Cathedral
- Golf Day (August/September)
- Youth Movie Day with popcorn and wors rolls (June)
- High Tea for the Cathedral
- Walk for the Cathedral
- Spring Market & Merchandise Sales
- Cathedral Merchandise Sale (clothing, candles, and more)
- Gala Fundraising Dinner & Auction
- Individual Pledges and Donations
- SnapScan, EFT, Card Machine and Envelopes available

Get Involved

We need all hands on deck! You can:

- Join the Fundraising Team
- Pledge monthly (Reno25_Surname_Initial as reference)
- Offer your time, talent, or resources
- Suggest sponsors or funding leads
- Invite friends and family to our events

Let's build together!

Contact: Churchwardens: Clement Sibiya (082 490 9191) | K. Mulaudzi (082 840 0881)
Alt. Churchwarden: Pontsho Moraba (082 646 0930)
Fundraising Chair: V. Qwalela (079 032 3885)

"*God loves a cheerful giver*." – 2 Corinthians 9:7

INSERTS

Processional Hymn: AMNS 207

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
   O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
   All ye who hear,
   Now to his temple draw near,
   Joining in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
   Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth;
   Hast thou not seen
   How thy heart's wishes have been
   Granted in what he ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
   Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
   Ponder anew
   What the almighty can do,
   If to the end he befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
   All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
   Let the Amen
   Sound from his people again:
   Gladly for ay we adore him.

Advent Antiphon

Christ is coming, prepare the way (x4)
Christ is coming, Christ is coming (x2)
Christ is coming, prepare the way

Introit Hymn: AMNS 31

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
   Born to set thy people free;
   From our fears and sins release us;
   Let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
   Hope of all the earth thou art;
   Dear desire of every nation,
   Joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver;
   Born a child and yet a king;
   Born to reign in us for ever;
   Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thy own eternal Spirit,
   Rule in all our hearts alone:
   By thy all-sufficient merit,
   Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Kyrie: seTswana

Morena, re utlwele botlhoko
Morena, re utlwele botlhoko

Kreste, re utlwele botlhoko
Kreste, re utlwele botlhoko

Morena, re utlwele botlhoko
Morena, re utlwele botlhoko

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

1. Hear O Shepherd of Israel
   You that led Joseph like a flock:
   You that are enthroned upon the cherubim
   Shine out in glory;

2. Before Ephraim Benjamin and Manasseh:
   Stir up your power and come to save us.

3. *Restore us again O Lord of hosts:*
   Show us the light of your countenance
   And we shall be saved.

4. O Lord God of hosts:
   How long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

5. You have fed them with the bread of tears:
   And given them tears to drink in good measure.

6. You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
   And our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7. *Restore us again O Lord of hosts:*
   Show us the light of your countenance
   And we shall be saved.

17. Le your power rest on the man at your right hand:
    On that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.

18. And so we shall not turn back from you:
    Give us life and we will call upon your name.

19. *Restore us again O Lord of hosts:*
    Show us the light of your countenance
    And we shall be saved.

Hymn For The Gradual: seTswana 35

1. MONG wa dinaledi,
   'Sedi ja batshedi,
   Jesu, Moemedi,
   Utlwa barapedi.

2. O no wa lelela
   Batho ba tatlhego;
   O ba lereditse
   'Tlhare sa poloko.

3. O no wa bolola
   Go re rekolola,
   Metlha ya bofela
   E semane go tla.

4. Ga o a nyatsa 'huba
   Sa Maria Mmago;
   Mme o intsheditse
   Setlhabelo ruri.

5. Dibopiwa tsotlhe
   A di obe tlhogo
   Ka leina ja 'go
   Je le kana-kana.

6. Tsotlhe tsa lefatshe
   Le tsa legodimo
   A di khubamele
   'Ina ja ga Jesu.

7. Wena, Moatlhodi,
   O re rekegele,
   E re o sekisa
   Baswi le batshedi.

8. A go bakwe wena,
   Kgosi le Morena:
   A go bakwe Rara,
   Ee, le one Mowa. Amen.

Sunday School & Teens Hymn

Building up the temple,
Building up the temple,
Building up the temple of the Lord.
Boys, come and help us,
Girls, come and help us,
Building up the temple of the Lord.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God
The Father, the Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
The only Son of God
Eternally begotten of the Father
God from God, Light from Light
True God from true God
Begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit

And the Virgin Mary
And was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
In accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
The giver of life
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son
Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped
And glorified
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead.
And the life of the world to come. **Amen**

Song For Peace

Jesu langa lomphefumlo
Akumnyama xa ukhoyo

Offertory Hymn 1: AMNS 102

1. My God, how wonderful thou art,
   Thy majesty how bright,
   How beautiful thy mercy-seat,
   In depths of burning light!

2. How dread are thine eternal years,
   O everlasting Lord,
   By prostrate spirits day and night
   Incessantly adored!

3. How wonderful, how beautiful,
   The sight of thee must be,
   Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,
   And aweful purity!

4. O how I fear thee, living God,
   With deepest, tenderest fears,
   And worship thee with trembling hope,
   And penitential tears!

5. Yet I may love these too, O Lord,
   Almighty as thou art,
   For thou hast stooped to ask of me
   The love of my poor heart.

6. No earthly father loves like thee,
   No mother, e'er so mild,
   Bears and forbears as thou hast done
   With me thy sinful child.

7. Father of Jesus, love's reward,
   What rapture will it be,
   Prostrate before thy throne to lie,
   And gaze and gaze on thee!

Offertory Hymn 2: AMNS 336

1. All my hope on God is founded;
   He doth still my trust renew.
   Me through change and chance he guideth,
   Only good and only true.
   God unknown,
   He alone
   Calls my heart to be his own.

2. Pride of man and earthly glory.
   Sword and crown betray his trust;
   What with care and toil he buildeth,
   Tower and temple, fall to dust.
   But God's power,
   Hour by hour,
   Is my temple and my tower.

3. God's great goodness aye endureth,
   Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
   Splendour, light, and life attend him,
   Beauty springeth out of naught,
   Evermore

From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.

4. Daily doth th' Almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.

5. Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.

Sanctus: isiZulu

Ngcwele, Ngcwele, Ngcwele, ingcwel' iNkosi
UNkulunkulu wamabandla,
Kungcwel'izulu nomhlab' ubukosi,
Bakho, mawudunyiswe Wena, Wena, Nkosi
Ophezu kwakho konke
Makabongwe ozayo ngegama le-Nkosi,
Hosana, Hosana, Hosana kweliphezulu
Hosana, Hosana

The Lord's Prayer: English

1. Father God in heaven, Lord most high
Hear your Children's prayer, Lord most high
Hallowed be Thy name, Lord most high
O Lord, hear our prayer.

2. May your kingdom come, here on earth
May your will be done, here on earth
As it is in heaven, so on earth
O Lord, hear our prayer.

3. Give us daily bread, day by day
And forgive our sins, day by day
As we too forgive, day by day
O Lord, hear our prayer

4. Lead us in your way, make us strong
When temptation comes, make us strong
Save us from all sin, make us strong
O Lord, hear our prayer.

5. The Kingdom's Yours my Lord, evermore
The glory's Yours my Lord, evermore
The power's Yours my Lord, evermore
Evermore, Amen.

Agnus Dei: isiXhosa

Mvana ka Thixo, esusa izono zehlabathi:
senzele inceba

Mvana ka Thixo, esusa izono zehlabathi:
senzele inceba

Mvana ka Thixo, esusa izono zehlabathi:
siphe uxolo lwakho

Communion Hymn 1 by Choir

Communion Hymn 2: AMNS 131

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.

2. Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

3. Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.

4. Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

5. Finish then thy new creation:

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Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee;

6. Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Post Communion Hymn: SOF 390

MEEKNESS AND MAJESTY,
Manhood and Deity,
In perfect harmony,
The Man who is God.
Lord of eternity
Dwells in humanity
And washes our feet.

O what a mystery,
Meekness and majesty.
Bow down and worship
For this is your God,
This is your God.

Father's pure radiance,
Perfect in innocence,
Yet learns obedience
To death on a cross.
Suffering to give us life,
Conquering through sacrifice,
And as they crucify
Prays: 'Father forgive.'

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
In frailty appears.
Lord of infinity,
Stooping so tenderly,
Lifts our humanity
To the heights of His throne.

O what a mystery,
Meekness and majesty.
Bow down and worship
For this is your God,
This is your God.

Recessional Hymn: AMNS 395

1. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
In joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song,
And, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

2. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
Rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
Is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.

3. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart:
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
Your presence to cheer me, whatever betide.

4. Lord of all being, I give you my all;
If e'er I disown you I stumble and fall;
But, sworn in glad service your word to obey,
I walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

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